毎日、毎日、自転車で学校に通ってたわけだけど・・・・
夜の帰り道（遅くなればなるほど）、
吠えながら走ってくる犬に、追いかけられてたな――（笑）
近道だったのに・・・・くそ・あの犬・・・・
何度、遠回りして帰ったことか・・・（悲）

寺嶋裕二

Shonen Magazine Comics

25

ダイヤのA エース

Yuji Terajima Presents

Ace of Diamond

寺嶋裕二

KCM4458

KC MAGAZINE

ダイヤのA 25

寺嶋裕二

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新生・青道の真価を問う、強豪・薬師との練習試合。
先発を任された降谷は、「エースになる」という目標に向け力投。
静かに燃える怪物が、圧倒的な意地、成長を見せた！
青道のエースになるために必要なのはライバル以上の結果――！
重圧と共に、ついに沢村がマウンドへ向かう!!

絶賛好評発売中

KC 寺嶋裕二作品

■GIANT STEP 全4巻
■ダイヤのA ①～

以下続刊

COVER ILLUSTRATION★YUJI TERAJIMA
COVER DESIGN★KAZUHIRO FUKUMI(Bank Inc.)

2011.3

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近道だったのに……くそ…あの犬……
何度、遠回りして帰ったことか……（悲）

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Shonen Magazine Comics
25
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ダイヤのA エース

Ace of Diamond presented by 寺嶋裕二

『沢村くんが頑張る姿、僕の刺激になっています!!』

北海道日本ハムファイターズ 中田翔選手大絶賛!!

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2011年春のセンバツを
「ダイヤのA エース」は応援します!!
★センバツ試合速報!
★新規待受 カレンダーフラッシュ配信!
★応援メッセージ受け付け!
★プレゼントクイズ実施!
高校野球&「ダイヤのA」ファン
必見の特設サイトが
今回もオープン!
アクセスはこちらから

「ダイヤのA」第26巻は5月17日発売予定

絶賛好評発売中
KC 寺嶋裕二作品
■GIANT STEP 全4巻
■ダイヤのA ①～
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寺嶋裕二
ダイヤのA
エース

前園 健太
ファースト
御幸とともにチームを引っ張る兄貴的存在。現在、打率低迷中。二年生。
白州 健二郎
ライト
無口で控えめな性格で攻守とも堅実。川上とは親友。二年生。
倉持 洋一
ショート
沢村と同室。沢村をイジメるのが好き。守備力と走力が高い。二年生。
川上 憲史
ピッチャー
リリーフ経験豊富な抑えの投手。気の弱いところがある。二年生。
金丸 信二
サード
沢村と同じクラスで勉強などフォロー。レギュラー入りを狙う。一年生。
東条 秀明
センター
元投手だったが、生き残るため外野手に。打撃センスあり。一年生。
樋笠 昭二
サード
スキンヘッドが特徴。コンスタントに結果を残し、正三塁手に。二年生。
麻生 尊
レフト
残り2つの外野手レギュラーの枠を争う一人。二年生。
真田俊平
三島優太
轟 雷蔵
轟 雷市
薬師高校
落合 博光
名門校より赴任してきた新コーチ。現在は、選手の特性を見極め中。
片岡 鉄心
部員達を心から信頼し、時には熱く、そして厳しく指導する鬼監督。
セカンド
小湊 春市
秀逸なバットコントロールで高打率を保持。小湊亮介は兄。一年生。
ピッチャー
沢村 栄純
出所の見えないクセ球(ムービングボール)が持ち味。折れない「ハートの強さ」が長所。一年生。
ピッチャー
降谷 暁
剛速球が武器の投手で打撃力も怪物クラス。持久力に課題あり。一年生。
キャッチャー
御幸 一也
投手の才能を引き出せる天才捕手。稲実・成宮に誘われた過去も。二年生。
青道高校

Chapter 211 / Ability

Chapter 212 / True Worth Tested

Chapter 213 / Outbreak

Chapter 214 / Another Strong-Willed Person

Chapter 216 / Do it or Run away?

Chapter 216 / No Control

Chapter 217 / Inner Voice...

Chapter 218 / Next Stage

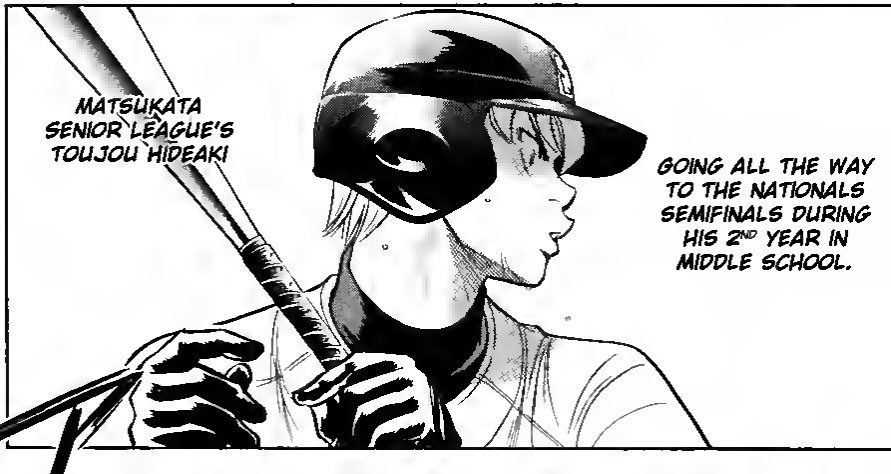
Chapter 219 / Road to...

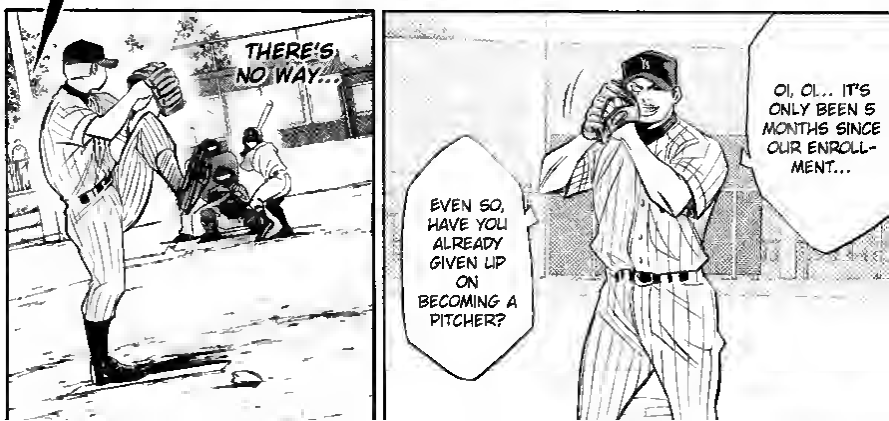
Booo
S
B
O
チーム 一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八 九
青道 1 0 0 0
業師 0 0 0 0
98
IS HE THAT CONFIDENT OF HIMSELF?
THAT PITCHER THROWS FORKBALLS EVEN WHEN HE'S UP IN THE COUNT.
IN OTHER WORDS, IT MEANS YOU OVERLOOKED THE EASY PITCHES AND HIT POORLY.
KAHAHA
ALTHOUGH HIS PITCHES AREN'T BAD,
IT'S NOT THAT HE'S ABLE TO KEEP HIS PITCHES LOW...

HIT THE ONES THAT ARE ABOVE BELT-LEVEL.
DON'T OVERLOOK EASY PITCHES!
SHOW YOUR OWN STYLE OF BATTING IN THE REMAINING INNING!!
YES SIR!
YEAH!

CHAPTER 211 / ABILITY

I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HIM INITIALLY BECAUSE HE'S AN OUTFIELDER.
BUT AS EXPECTED, HE'S THAT GUY...
TOP OF 5TH INNING


MATSUKATA SENIOR LEAGUE'S TOUJOU HIDEAKI
GOING ALL THE WAY TO THE NATIONALS SEMIFINALS DURING HIS 2ND YEAR IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.


THERE'S NO WAY...
EVEN SO, HAVE YOU ALREADY GIVEN UP ON BECOMING A PITCHER?
OI, OI... IT'S ONLY BEEN 5 MONTHS SINCE OUR ENROLLMENT...

A GUY LIKE YOU CAN HIT MY PITCHES, WHICH ARE FULL OF AMBITION.
BOW!
BYE

KAHAHA
thud
He hit it!
YOSHIA, NO OUT AND RUNNERS ON BASE.
TOUJOU HIT AGAIN!

SEEING THIS, YOU ACTUALLY DO HAVE SOME SENSE.
I'M GLAD. IT FLEW TO A GOOD SPOT...
Tch
PLAYING IT SAFE! ANOTHER BUNT!!
YUUTA, TO 1ST!!

DAMN!
OUT!
So close...
YOSH, KURAMOCHI, NICE BUNT.
ALTHOUGH IT'S A SHAME!
IF THAT BUNT HAD SUCCEEDED, IT WOULD'VE SET A GOOD PACE FOR MORE ATTACKS

TOKYO
WHOA!
GAH!
ASSAULT ON THE PITCHER!!

IT WASN'T INTENTIONAL!
JUST NOW THAT MUST BE INTENTIONAL!
Even though he looks like that, he's the type to do it if it needs to be done!!
whisper whisper
WITH THIS, IT'S 1 OUT, RUNNERS AT THE CORNERS!
Hmm—
IN THE MEANTIME, THE RUNNER ADVANCES TO 3RD BASE.
T/N: "RUNNERS AT THE CORNERS" MEANS RUNNERS ON 1ST AND 3RD WITH 2ND BASE BEING OPEN (NO RUNNER)
1 OUT, RUNNERS ON 1ST AND 3RD.
GO FOR IT, ZONO—!!
THIS SITUATION IS SIMILAR TO THE FIRST INNING...

T/N: "FAGGED BALL" = A PITCH THE CATCHER DOESN'T MANAGE TO CONTROL, WHICH THE UMPIRE FEELS OUGHT TO BE CAUGHT. RUNNERS ON BASE ADVANCE, INCLUDING ANY RUNNER ON 3RD SCORES AS A "FORCED RUN". BATTER STILL GETS CREDITED WITH AN RBI.

DON'T PRESSURE ME!!
SHUT UP!
SHOW THEM HOW IT'S DONE AS A SENPAI, ZONO!
A CHANCE CREATED BY THE KOHAI
IT MIGHT BE A PASSED BALL...
"ZONO-SAN!"

HE'S THE CLEANUP HE JUST HAS TO KEEP PRESSING FORWARD
I WONDER ABOUT IT. MAEZONO IS NOT THAT SKILLFUL A PLAYER
IT MIGHT BE A SQUEEZE PLAY...
WITH MY BAT—
THIS MEANS THAT THE COACH WANTS ME TO SWING AWAY AND SEND THE RUNNERS BACK HOME!!
THERE IS NO SIGN FOR A SQUEEZE PLAY...

BOW
FOUL!

OI-OI..., HIS SWING IS TOO STIFF! COULD HE REALLY BE FEELING ALL THAT PRESSURE?
THIS GUY... HE DOESN'T JUST SWING WILDLY...
HIS HEAD MIGHT BE FULL OF HITTING IT ONLY TO THE RIGHT...
SHOULDER, SHOULDER!! YOU USED TOO MUCH POWER!!
hmm~
STRIKE TWO—!!
AHH—HE DIDN'T SWING AT THAT PITCH TO THE INSIDE CORNER!
HE'S BEING CORNERED SO SOON!

IF I CAN'T HIT IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION?
HOW CAN I BE THE CLEANUP HITTER
IS MY FORKBALL STUCK IN YOUR HEAD?
Kekeke
I... ALTHOUGH I BAT AS THE CLEANUP HITTER... I DON'T THINK OF MYSELF AS A GOOD BATTER.
HOW TO HAND IT OFF TO THE NEXT BATTER...
HOW TO GET ON BASE...
HOW TO CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY ...

EVEN SO, FOR EVERY SINGLE AT-BAT...
I CHASE AFTER EVERY PITCH AS IF MY LIFE DEPENDED ON IT—

AS IF MY LIFE DEPENDED ON IT—...

HAHAHA

OUT——!!
YAAAA
3 OUTS! CHANGE!!
AAHH—— THE WORST DOUBLE PLAY SITUATION!!
MAEZONO BROKE THE FLOW AGAIN!
YOUR BATTING ISN'T BAD
IT JUST HAPPENED TO FALL INTO A GLOVE!

GET BACK INTO THE GAME, ZONO
FOCUS!
NO MATTER HOW GOOD MY BATTING IS, THERE'S NO MEANING TO IT IF IT'S NOT A HIT—...
COACH! I'M FULLY READY!
CAN I PITCH, STARTING THIS INNING?

CHAPTER 212 / TRUE WORTH TESTED

Oh—
Uwoooh
WHAT'S WITH THAT PITCHER...
He's good.
EVEN THOUGH HE'S IN THE BULLPEN, HE'S REALLY PUTTING HIS HEART INTO IT.
How about this—

Argh!

Yeah! The 2nd run~
ADDING ON A RUN WITH THE 2 LONG HITS FROM MIYUKI AND FURUYA
FURUYA PLAYS A VERY ACTIVE ROLE IN BOTH PITCHING AND BATTING
HE'S A REALLY FORMIDABLE 1ST YEAR..
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? HE'S ALREADY THE DRIVING FORCE OF THE TEAM.

Grrr
CAN I PITCH, STARTING THIS INNING?
YOU'RE ON STANDBY.
EH!?
Now let's go
NO, BUT... IT'S ALREADY 5 INNINGS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAN...
EEEEEHHHHH
THAT'S ENOUGH. JUST BE ON STANDBY.

BEING READY BASED ON THE SITUATION IS ALSO A RELIEF PITCHER'S DUTY...
RE... RELIEF PITCHER...

I WANTED TO BE THE STARTING PITCHER FOR THIS GAME—...
Are you crying?
Nggg
THERE'S NO WAY I WANT TO BE A RELIEF PITCHER!
DO YOU WANT TO BURN YOURSELF OUT IN THE BULLPEN?
Hey hey
DAMNNNNNNN.
IN THE END, THIS INNING ENDED WITH 1 RUN.
AH— THEY CAN'T FOLLOW-UP AFTER THAT
3 OUTS, CHANGE!
PITCHER FURUYA WAS TAGGED OUT AT 2ND.

Yawnnnn
WELL, I FULFILLED MY ROLE AS THE STARTING PITCHER PROPERLY.
GIVING UP 2 RUNS IN 6 INNINGS...

THAT'S SO BORING.

WELL, OUR 20-GAME WINNING STREAK IS ON THE LINE!
KAHAHAHA
Nice pitching—
SANADA——!! YOU'RE PITCHING THE NEXT INNING!
Eeehhhh
DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS STAGNANT ATMOSPHERE~~~
Stagnant

INSTEAD OF THAT, FIRST...
WE HAVE TO BREAK DOWN THAT PITCHER...

15
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN TAKING IT SLOW...
No, this is for real
AS EXPECTED, YAKUSHI IS ALSO STARTING TO GET IMPATIENT...?
I CAN'T LET YOU HAVE YOUR WAY IN PITCHING.
YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING THE FIELD AS A BATTER...
S
B
O

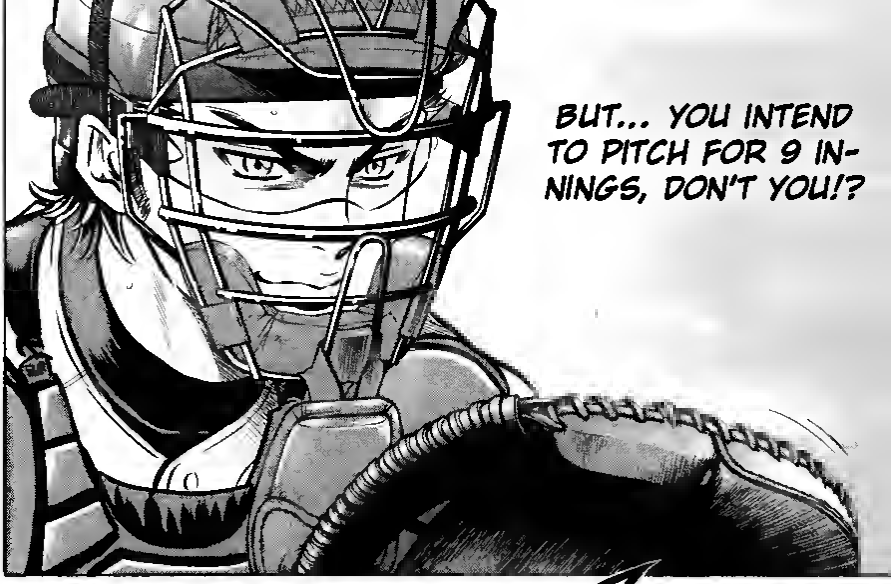
YOSHA! HE MESSED UP!

FURUYA'S COVER IS SLOW.
SAFE—!
ポコッ

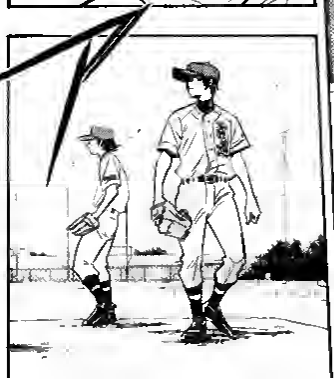
WHAT'S WRONG!? YOU'RE OUT OF BREATH!!
haa—
haa—
Hmph
You're the same
WANNA CHANGE? WANNA SUB OUT!?
IT'S THE BOTTOM OF 6TH INNING, AS EXPECTED...
WELL... RUNNING AROUND LIKE THAT SINCE THE FIRST INNING, OF COURSE HE WOULD RUN OUT OF GAS...
RATHER, THIS SITUATION
IS THE FIRST TIME HIS TRUE WORTH AS A PITCHER IS GETTING TESTED—

BALL
FOUR!

AH— FOUR BALLS STRAIGHT.
NO OUTS, RUNNERS ON 1ST AND 2ND.
nod
DON'T MIND THE RUNNER
FOCUS ON THE BATTER
HIS PITCHES ARE STARTING TO FLOAT...
THE POWER OF HIS PITCHES HASN'T DECREASED, BUT...


BUT... YOU INTEND TO PITCH FOR 9 INNINGS, DON'T YOU!?

LET THE GAME REACH THE CLEANUP BATTER~~~
KEEP PRESSING FORWARD IN THIS INNING WITHOUT STOPPING.



IF THAT'S THE CASE, IN THIS SITUATION
YOU HAVE TO PITCH IT LOW PERFECTLY...

ダイヤのA

CHAPTER 213 / OUTBREAK

IN THE END, IT WAS A 4-6-3 DOUBLE PLAY.
THEY ARE UNMOVED EVEN THOUGH IT'S NO OUTS AND RUNNERS ON 1ST AND 2ND.
KAHAHAHAHA
That's not awesome!
Awesome!
THEY FINISHED IT BEFORE THE CLEANUP!
PITCHED FOR 6 INNINGS, 2 HITS, 2 WALKS,
Nice pitching—
YAKUSHI DIDN'T SCORE ANY RUNS IN THIS INNING EITHER.
NO RUNS—

AT LONG LAST, SEIDOU —KNOWN FOR NOT HAVING AN ACE FOR A LONG TIME— IS...
NO-NO-NO, IT'S STILL TOO SOON
HE'S STILL UNSTABLE

petrified
AH... ALL RIGHT, I'LL RELAY IT.
FURUYA WILL GO TO LEFT FIELD.
SAWAMURA WILL BE PITCHING FROM THE NEXT INNING.
I FEEL YOUR RESOLUTION.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU IN THE FALL CHAMPI-ONSHIP, TOO.
IF THAT'S THE CASE ANOTHER 3 INN...
LEFT FIELD.

HUH...?
THIS GUY...

.WAS HE ALWAYS THIS SCARY!?
RAH!

OUT
TCH...
JUST NOW... IS HE PITCHING TOWARDS ME...

1 OUT!
1 OUT!
YOSH— GET ONE FIRST—!!
NICE BALL, SANADA!!
1 OUT, RAICHI—!
SANADA-SENPAI, NICE BALL!!
RAICHI! DON'T MAKE POINTLESS MISTAKES AND DON'T CAUSE ANY TROUBLE!!
SAWA-MURA!
IS IT ALL RIGHT TO USE THE USUAL SIGNS?
S.. SOME-HOW, DON'T THE CHEERS SEEM LOUDER WHEN THAT GUY STANDS ON THE MOUND?

FOUL.
IT CUTS MUCH SHARPER COMPARED TO THE QUALIFIER BACK THEN!!
DAMN... A CUTTER..

SHOOTBALL FOR RIGHT-HANDED BATTERS AND CUTTERS FOR LEFTIES.
AS USUAL, HE'S A STRONG PITCHER, PITCHING MAINLY INSIDE CORNER PITCHES.
IT WILL BE THE CLEANUP BATTER RIGHT FROM THE START OF THE NEXT INNING.
MATCH HIS FIGHTING SPIRIT.

THE OPPONENT DOESN'T KNOW THAT YOU CAN PITCH CUTTERS.
SHOW THEM HOW MUCH YOU'VE IMPROVED.

SANADA, NICE PITCHING!
2 OUT!
YES, THE 2ND——!!
KAHAHA-HAHA
Sanada, 2-Pitch Out!
2 OUT, RAI-CHI——!!
2 OUT!
IT'S ONLY 2 OUTS, AND THE ATMOSPHERE IS LIKE THIS
LET HIM HIT IT——

THIS IS THE PRESENCE OF THE ACE—!
2 OUT, 2 OUT—
One, two!!
KAICHI— DO YOU UNDERSTAND!?

BEING READY BASED ON THE SITUATION IS ALSO A RELIEF PITCHER'S DUTY...
S
B
O
NO RUNS GIVEN UP IN 6 TOKYO INNINGS...
DON'T GO THINKING YOU'RE AHEAD OF ME...
A RELIEF PITCHER'S DUTY...?
ARE YOU KIDDING ME!?
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE ACE...

KAHAHAHAHA
3 OUTS, CHANGE!
WHEN ACE SANADA TAKES THE MOUND, THE FIRST 3 BATTERS OF THE LINEUP ARE SENT OUT!
This is it!
clap clap
WONDER-FUL

HOW MANY RUNS DO YOU WANT FOR THE REMAINING 3 INNINGS?
SO!?
munch
munch
munch
IF YOU CARRY ON LIKE THIS AND END UP NOT SCORING,
I'LL STOP TELLING YOU WHAT TO DO!!
Ew?
Oi
GO HOME AND RUN AWAY FROM HOME!
NOW LET'S GO!
I WILL DEFINITELY MAKE YOU ACKNOWLEDGE ME...

DEFINITELY—...

DEFINITELY—...

ダイヤのA
チーム 一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八 九 十 計
青道 1 0 0 0 0 1 0
共栄 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
BOTTOM OF THE 7TH INNING... PITCHER CHANGE...
ザワ
ザワ
ザワ
I WANTED TO SEE 3 MORE INNINGS OF THAT— FURUYA'S PITCHING.

CHAPTER 214 / ANOTHER STRONG-WILLED GUY

WELL, HE'S A VALUABLE SOUTHPAW.
FEARLESS, RECKLESS,
SAW MURAI'S PITCHING THAT CHALLENGES HIS OPPONENT HEAD-ON.
BUT I LIKE IT.
How about that!
ALTHOUGH HE WAS TAKEN OFF THE MOUND AT THE LAST MOMENT... HE PITCHED WELL IN THE FINALS GAME...
COACH! I'M FULLY READY!

WELL...
SO THERE IS ANOTHER HEADSTRONG GUY.
CAN I PITCH STARTING THIS INNING?
3 INNINGS LEFT, WITH A 2 RUN LEAD...
HE MUST BE ANOTHER PITCHER HELD IN HIGH REGARD BY KATAOKA-SAN...
IF HE'S PUTTING HIM ON THE MOUND IN THIS SITUATION.
DO ME A FAVOUR AND GET SERIOUS!!
BECAUSE YOU GUYS ARE TAKING IT EASY, THAT IRON-ARMED BOY RAN AWAY!
I didn't run away
HMPH... THAT CURVE BALL SOUTHPAW.

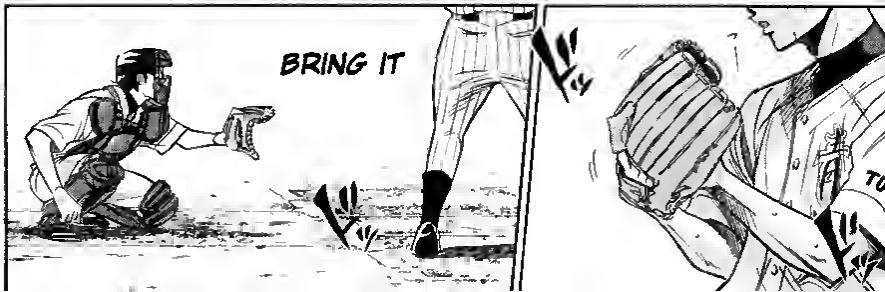
peel
IT'S NOT ENOUGH AT ALL...
I REMEMBER THAT HIS PITCHES ARE HARD TO HIT...
YEAH... INSTEAD OF THE POWER, I FELT THE SHARPNESS ...
Huh?
I WANT TO HIT SAWAMURA'S PITCHES, BUT I WANT TO HIT FURUYA'S MUCH, MUCH, MUCH MORE BADLY!!
I DIDN'T BAT ENOUGH AT ALL!!
munch
munch
munch
munch
munch
munch
GET THEM ONE BY ONE.
JUST AS USUAL.
DISGU-STING!
STOP WITH THE SILLYISH TALK!!
YOSH! LET'S PLAY 5 MORE GAMES!!
EIJUN-KUN

nod
SAWAMURA, LET THEM HIT IT—
IT'S THE 3RD BATTER.
nod
nod
THE FIRST PITCH IS IMPORTANT, SAWAMURA—!!
That guy is he all right
ALTHOUGH HE KEPT PITCHING IN THE BULL-PEN. .
GET HIM FROM THE FIRST PITCH!
I will keep letting them hit! I'm counting on you!
Thank you!
DOESN'T HE DO THAT USUALLY. . even though I actually like it

THEY ARE OUR OPPONENTS.
AFTER SEEING FURUYA'S PITCHING, HE WOULD PUT HIS HEART INTO THE GAME.
……
BUT... HIS FIGHTING SPIRIT IS A LITTLE OVER THE TOP...
IKI-
BA—

IF YOU EXPECT TOO MUCH, TOKYO
THE PRESSURE WILL ONLY INCREASE...
EVEN SO, THE PITCHER IS THE ONE STANDING ON THE MOUND—
PLAY!

YOU WANT TO BECOME THE ACE TOO, DON'T YOU?
THEN YOU-HAVE TO TAKE THIS ON WITH YOUR OWN PITCHING—


BRING IT

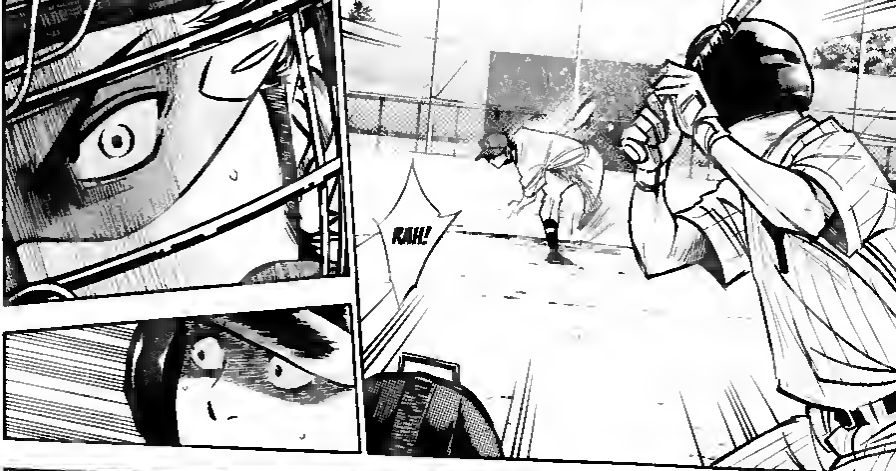
IF I SWING SHARPLY,
IT WILL PASS OVER THE INFIELD...
ONE TO THE INSIDE CORNER—...

WAH!

YOU... USED TOO MUCH POWER~~~!!
Ah.
Hmph—
LET HIM HIT IT, SAWA-MURA—
WHADDA' YA' MEAN, "HMPH"!
TAKE IT EASY.
AS EXPECTED, I CAN'T SEE THE BALL RELEASE POINT...
CALM DOWN...
DAMN...
nod
YOU'RE PUTTING TOO MUCH POWER IN YOUR SHOULDER..

Damn.
BALL TWO—!!
SAWA-MURA— GET THEM ONE AT A TIME!
KEEP IT UP, AKIBA!!
THE PITCHER IS GETTING IMPATIENT!
NO...
THE OPPONENT IS YAKUSHI'S CLEANUP.
SHOULD I GET HIM TO PITCH TO THE OUTSIDE CORNER TO GET AHEAD IN THE COUNT?
hmm—
NOT BEING ABLE TO PITCH INTO THE STRIKE ZONE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION...
TOKYO

THERE'S NO EASY WAY TO SURPASS THEM BY SKILLFUL EVADING...
YOU CAN ONLY USE ALL-YOUR MIGHT...
BECOMING WEAK-WILLED
IS THE WORST.
TOKYO
hmm—
WALKING THE FIRST BATTER IS BAD.
AN EASY PITCH IS ALSO BAD.

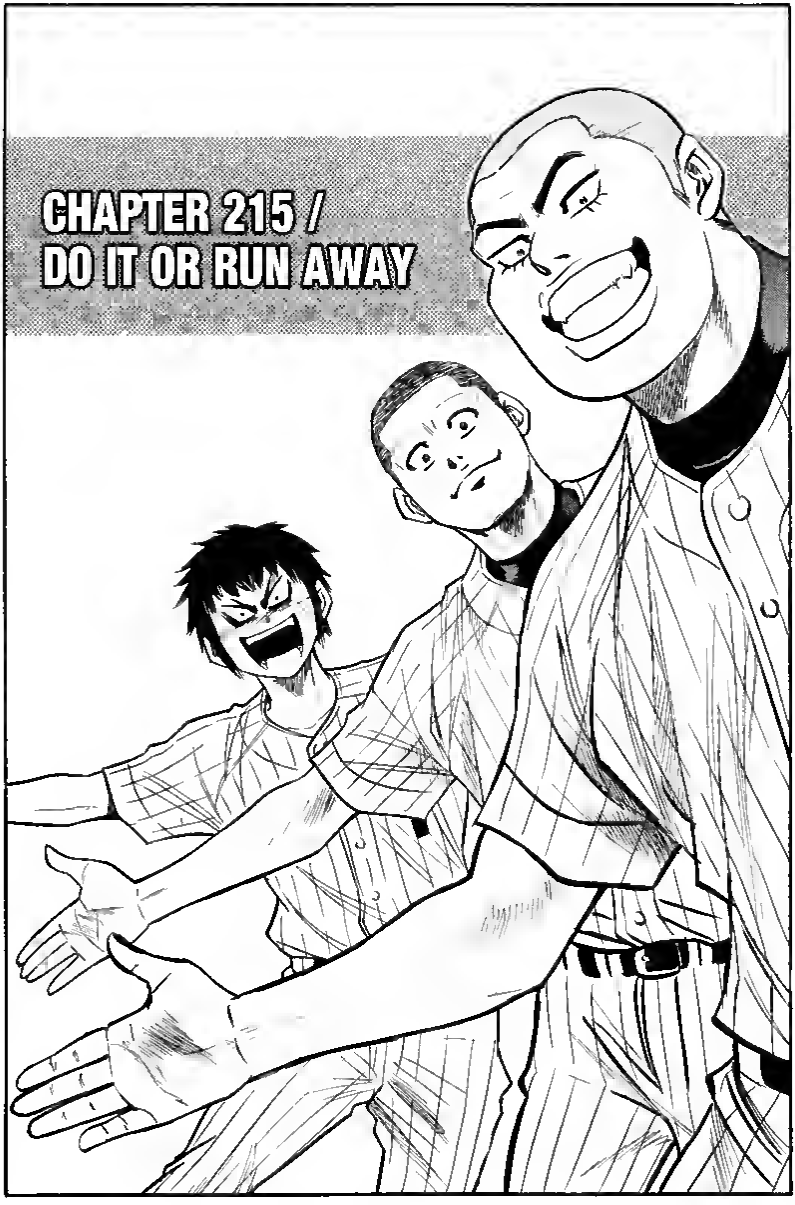

RAH!

RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE—...

YOSHA! IN FRONT OF THE CENTRE FIELDER!
IT WAS TOO EASY THAT IT BECAME A SINGLE-BASE HIT...
WHAT A SHOCK...
CORNERING HIMSELF IN THE COUNT... ALLOWING A HIT FROM HIS EASY PITCH.
THE KIND OF PITCHING NO TEAMS WANTS TO SEE FROM THEIR PITCHERS...
....

Get back in the game—
Damn—
.....
EVEN SO... HIS PITCHES ARE STILL EASY...
flop
flop
DON'T SHOW OFF!
You!
I CAN SEE THAT HE REALLY HAS THE HEART TO ATTACK...

BRING ON A GRAND SHOWDOWN!!
NOW IS THE TIME!! HIT IT AND PUT US IN A BETTER SPOT!
THAT UNCANNY GUY!!
TAKE HIM DOWN, RAICHI—!!


CHAPTER 215 /
DO IT OR RUN AWAY

HE'S STUBBORN...
EVEN IF YOU DON'T KEEP THAT SCARY FACE ON, I WON'T RUN...
THERE'S NO NEED FOR IT...
Hmph

IT'S UNUSUAL FOR SAWAMURA TO PITCH TO THE OUTSIDE CORNER..
COULD HE BE AVOIDING A FACE-OFF...
BALL.
THE FIRST PITCH IS TO THE OUTSIDE CORNER.
YOSH... YOUR PITCH HAS POWER..
RUNNING AWAY RIGHT NOW IS NOT AN OPTION.
COULD HE BE CAUTIOUS BECAUSE THE BATTER IS THIS GUY...

YOUR PITCH DIDN'T DEVIATE MUCH FROM THE POSITION I INDICATED...
IF YOU SETTLE THIS RIGHT NOW WITH AN INSIDE CORNER PITCH—...
THE PITCH TODOROKI DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT...

A CUTTER TOWARDS HIS CHEST—
ビッ
ビッ
ビッ

IF YOU DON'T PITCH IT HERE,
YOU CAN'T TAKE OUT TODOROKI—
YOU PITCHED THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT I REQUESTED TOO OFTEN IN GAMES.
YOUR CONTROL WAS NEVER GOOD TO BEGIN WITH. I WON'T ASK FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE...
puuhuuu—
...DAMN
THE GAME AGAINST YAKUSHI TOMORROW WON'T BE THAT EASY.

SHUT UP!
QUIET, HEARTBEAT!
DO IT.
OR RUN AWAY!?

ISN'T THAT
TOKYO
A GIVEN AL-
READY——....

HOW COULD AN ACE RUN AWAY—

チーム
一二三四五六七八九十
月進
1000010
楽部
000000

YOSHAA!!!
KAHAHAHAHA
TIED AT 2 RUNS!
Thank you, thank you.
Yeah—
THERE WAS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT FROM THE MOMENT HE HIT IT!
KAHAHAHAHA
RAICHI~~~ STEP ON THE BASES PROPERLY!
.....

DAMN YOU!! WHAT DID YOU EAT TO HIT THE BALL THAT FAR!!
KAHAHAHAHA
IS IT BANANA? IS IT BANANA!?
TIME ..
NICE BATTING, YOU BASTARD!
IT WAS HIGH AND THE TRAJECTORY WAS HALF-ASSED...
A CARELESS PITCH.
Come here!!
I WAS EXPECTING MORE BITE OUT OF HIS PITCHES THAN THAT...

HE DIDN'T PITCH TO THE INSIDE CORNER..
Don't mind
THIS GUY MIGHT BE HIS NATURAL ENEMY...
TODOROKI AGAIN
flop
flop
flop
WELL~~~ IT REALLY FLEW~~~
...

FN: "PITCH TO CONTACT" = PITCHING TO SPOTS WHERE THE BATTER CAN HIT, BUT NOT GET A SOLID HIT. BASICALLY TRYING TO FORCE THE BATTER TO HIT TO THE INFIELD OR SHALLOW INTO THE OUTFIELD, OR FORCING HIM TO POP A HIT UP

THAT IS MY ONLY WORTH!
STARTING FROM THE NEXT, THEY ARE RIGHT-HANDED BATTERS! PITCH IT HARD!!
RIGHT!!
I'll do it!
THAT'S RIGHT
DON'T JUST AGREE!
DO YOU HAVE TO DO THAT?
Still no outs~~
No outs~~

CHAPTER 216 / NO CONTROL

GA
AAN
Y
YEAH!
thud
YOSHAAA!
NICE BRUTE FORCE!
A HIT IS STILL A HIT!

ABOUT TIME FOR HIM TO GET AN OUT...
ALTHOUGH HE WAS STOPPED ..
3 CONSECUTIVE HITS
SANADA—
GO FOR IT, IN 1 SHOT!
shuffle
I WON'T SHOW ANY MERCY!! WHEN IT COMES TO SCORING, I WANT TO SCORE NO MATTER HOW MANY RUNS IT IS.
huuu—

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO—
PITCH INTO THAT MITT—
INTO THAT MITT—

THE PITCH WASN'T SENT TO THE REQUESTED SPOT AT ALL.
THE CATCHER CAN'T LEAD HIM LIKE THIS.
HE SEEMED STRONG-WILLED, AND I HAD HIGH HOPES FOR HIM...

SOMEHOW, IT LOOKS LIKE...
THAT PITCHER IS AFRAID OF PITCHING TO THE INSIDE CORNER.
TOWARDS THE RIGHT BATTER'S CHEST
CROSSFIRE!

GET IN THERE!

4 CONSE-
CUTIVE
HITS—!!
NICE BATTING, SANADA-SENPAI!
IT'S NOT JUST LEFTIES.
HE DIDN'T PITCH ANY INSIDE CORNERS FOR THE RIGHTIES EITHER...
TOKYO
YOSHAA! BETWEEN THE RIGHT AND CENTER FIELDER!

SAWAMURA... YOU... COULD IT BE?
A 1ST YEAR LIKE FURUYA...
A SOUTHPAW WITH AN IRREGULAR FORM...

I UNDERSTAND WHY KATAOKA-SAN HAD HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR HIM, BUT...
I WOULDN'T ENTRUST THE ACE NUMBER
TO A PITCHER WHO CANNOT PITCH TO THE INSIDE CORNER—...

BALL!
TAKE YOUR BASE!

BASES LOADED—!!
PITCHER SAWAMURA HASN'T GOT-TEN EVEN ONE OUT SO FAR!!

OI OI, YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING...
THERE'S NOTHING MORE BORING THAN A PITCHER WHO SELF-DESTRUCTS!
WE'LL TAKE HIM DOWN
SAWAMURA...
DON'T MIND THE TRAJECTORY SO MUCH
YOUR PITCHES HAVE POWER.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. EVERYONE IS HERE.

SAWAMURA, LET THEM HIT IT!!
INFIELDERS SEND IT BACK HOME!
YOU'RE NOT ALONE!
LOOK AROUND! AROUND YOU——!!
DO IT YOUR WAY!
AT THIS RATE...
ONE AT A TIME! ONE AT A TIME!
HOW CAN IT END JUST LIKE THIS...
FOCUS ON THE BATTER!!

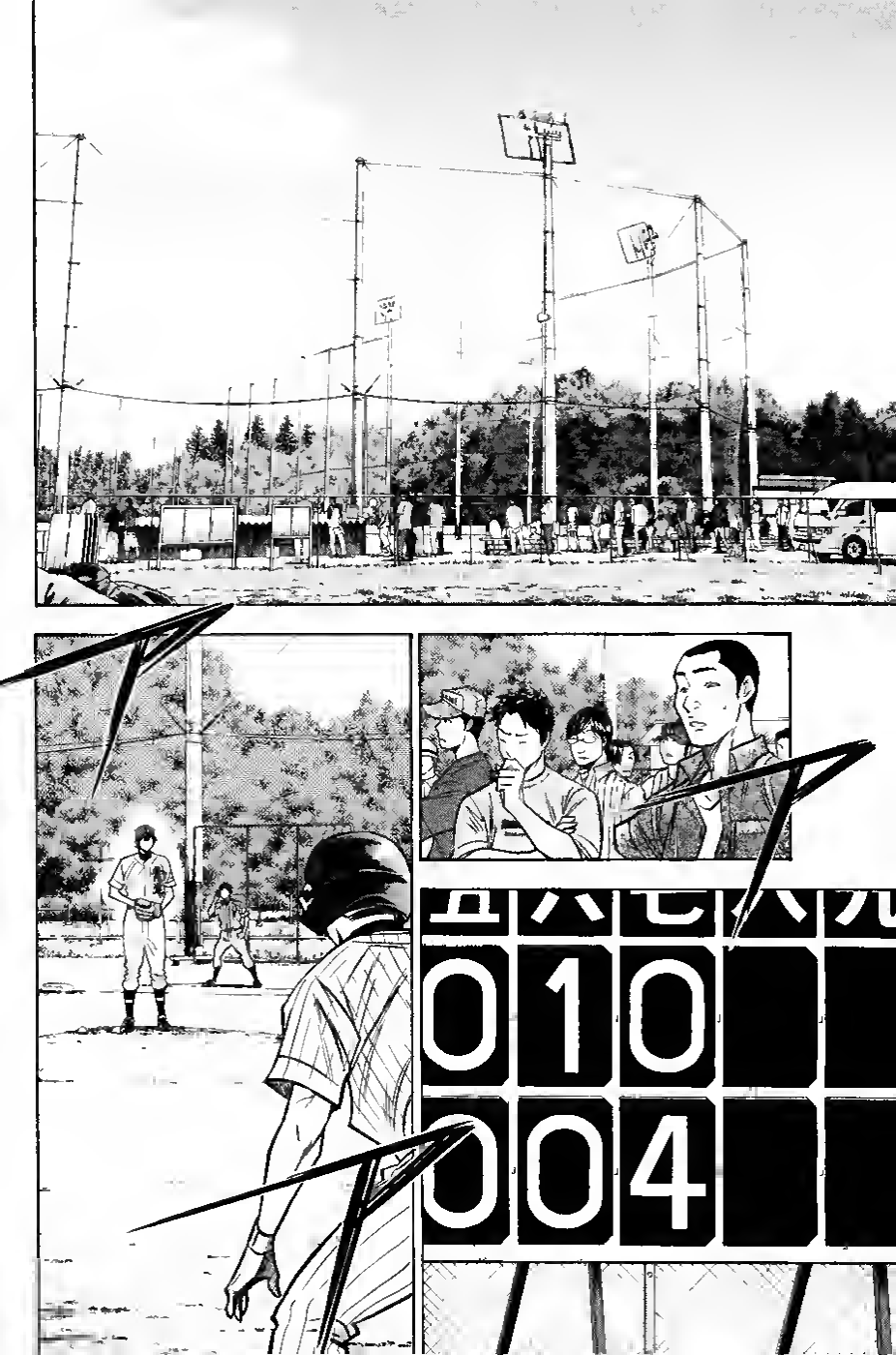
I
HAVEN'T
SHOWN ANYTHING YET—...

DAMN
...
IS THIS FOR REAL!

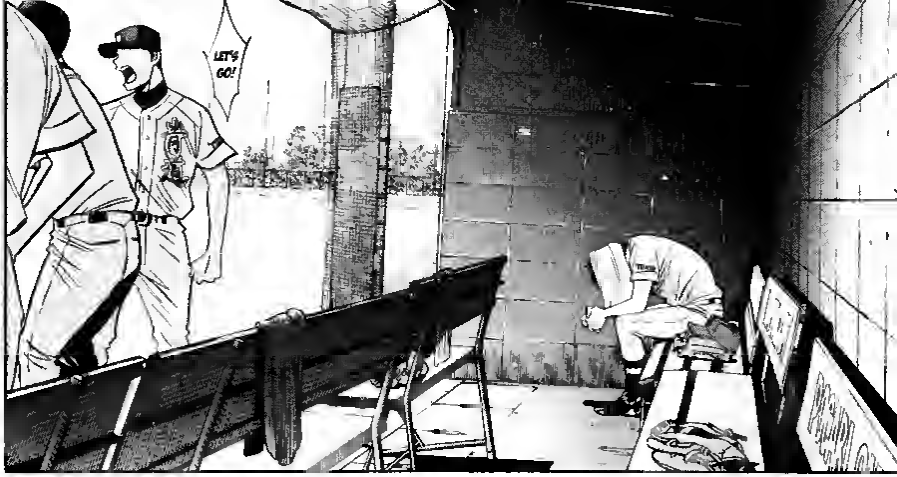
SAWAMURA, COVER——!!
SAWA-MURA!!

Ace of Diamond

CHAPTER 127 / INNER VOICE...



OK! NICE BALL!
NICE BALL, FURUYA!
2 OUT!!


LET'S GO!

TOKY

2 OUT! 2 OUT!
LET THEM HIT IT, FURUYA.
I'm not tiredmm
THAT PITCHER IS TIRED—!!
NOW'S THE CHANCE TO STRIKE THEM DOWN!
TELL SAWAMURA TO ICE HIMSELF PROPERLY.
KANE-MARU
AH... YES!

T/N: MEANS PUT ON ICE PACK

OI... I BROUGHT THE COOLER BOX.
DO IT PROPERLY ON YOUR OWN LATER...
HE'S BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE HE RETURNED TO THE DUGOUT...
THIS GUY...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SAWAMURA'S HAD A SUMMER THIS TERRIBLE...

3 RUNS FROM THE WILD PITCH!
YAKUSHI TURNED THE GAME AROUND IN ONE GO THIS INNING!
EVEN NOW, THERE ARE RUNNERS ON 2ND AND 3RD.
MIYUKI!
OI! YOU SHOULD HAVE RUN IN TO COVER!!

NOT JUST THIS GAME, IN THE RECENT GAMES TOO... HE CAN'T PITCH TO THE INSIDE CORNER AND HE'S THROWING TOO MANY EASY PITCHES...
HIS PITCHES HAVE POWER AND HE HAS FIGHTING SPIRIT, BUT
WHAT IS HIS SITUATION...
I DON'T HOW AWARE OF IT HE IS HIM-SELF, BUT...
IF HE WERE AFFECTED BY THE DEAD BALL IN THE FINALS GAME...

FURUYA!
SAWA-MURA
SWITCH OUT.
HUH!?
青道
青

WELL... THAT CAN'T BE HELPED.
THE FLOW OF THE GAME WON'T CHANGE EASILY...
#17
NOT KAWAKAMI BUT FURUYA.
KAWAKAMI PITCHED FOR THE PREVIOUS GAME
THE MOST DEPENDABLE ONE TODAY IS FURUYA.

EIJUN-KUN
I HAVEN'T EVEN... GOTTEN 1 OUT...
JUST... A MINUTE...
JUST LIKE THIS...
IF I'M PULLED OFF THE MOUND JUST LIKE THIS...

THE BALL...
TOKYO

THERE'S NO NEED FOR 2 PITCHERS ON THE MOUND.
TOKYO
I KNOW THAT YOU ARE FRUS-
TRATED
HA

...
WAHAHAHA. T... THAT'S RIGHT!
IT'S ONLY NATURAL I'D BE SWITCHED OUT IF I CAN'T EVEN GET 1 OUT WHILE GIVING UP 3 RUNS.
TOKYO

S... SORRY FOR LETTING YOU STAND ON THE MOUND IN SUCH A CRISIS...
THE REST IS UP TO YOU...
NO...
DON'T GET OFF.

DON'T GET OFF THE MOUND—...
THIS FEELING...
AH...
IT'S THE SAME AS THAT TIME...!
ﾅﾝﾃﾞ!!

THE FEELING OF...
THE MOUND...
GRADUALLY MOVING AWAY FROM ME...
NEVER AGAIN...
IT FEELS LIKE I'LL NEVER GET TO STAND THERE AGAIN.
LIKE THAT TIME—...

I AM SENT OFF NOW—...
IF...
青道

CHAPTER 218 / NEXT STAGE

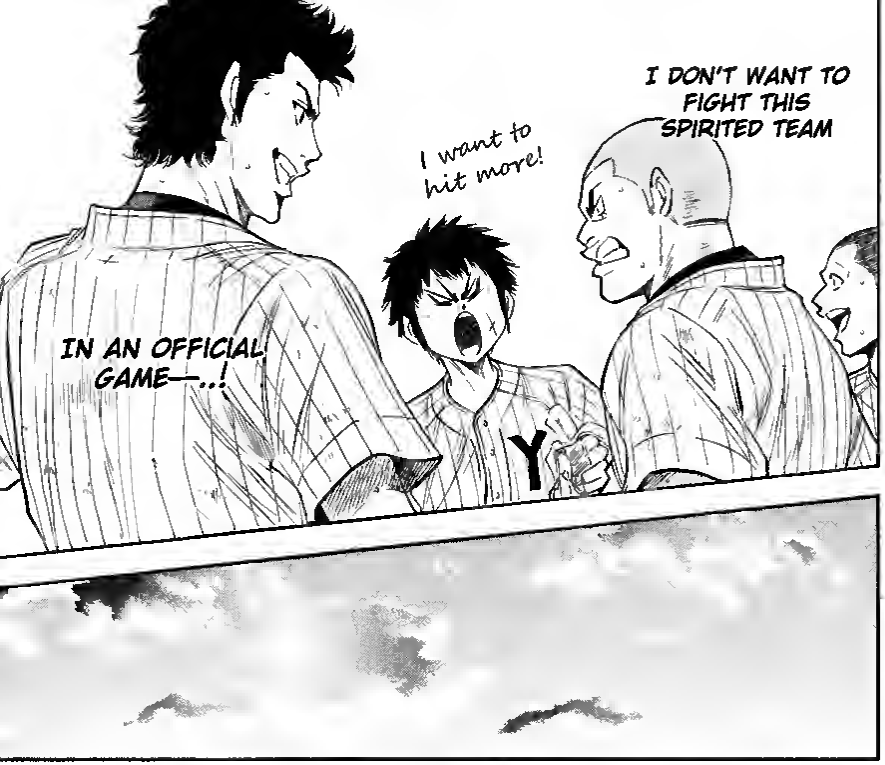
YEAAAAH!
20-GAME WINNING STREAK—!!

OF COURSE IT'S THE STARTING PITCHER! THE STARTING PITCHER'S GOOD PITCHING MATTERS THE MOST!!
KAHAHAHA
TARGET ACHIEVED—!!
WE ARE THE STRONGEST!
NICE PITCHING, SANADA!
SANADA, NICE PITCHING.
TOKYO
青道
THANK YOU FOR THE GAME TODAY
PRAISE ME TOO!

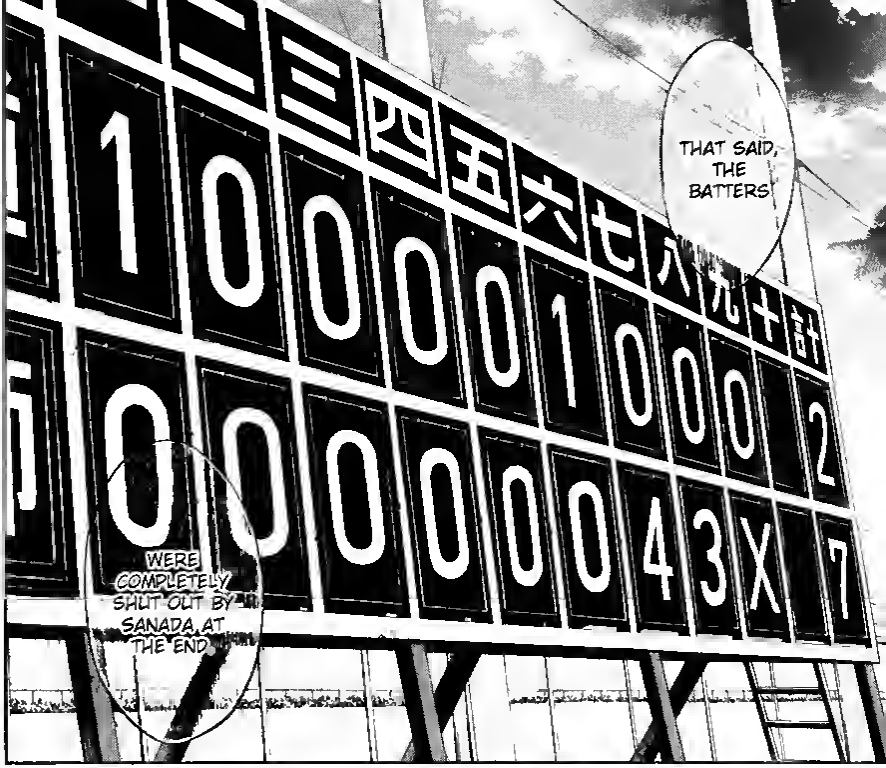
NO, NO, THE PLEASURE IS MINE!
GAIN.. YOU'RE STILL SAYING IT'S A PRACTICE GAME AT THIS POINT?
I FOUND MANY PROBLEMS TO TACKLE. WE GAINED A LOT FROM THIS GAME.
STILL, THERE'S THE SCENT OF MONEY AROUND THAT FURUYA KID~~~
HAVE ANY PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL TEAMS SET THEIR EYES ON HIM YET?
WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT IS HOW THEY DEVELOP AS A PERSON.
THIS IS WHAT WE, AS THE ONES IN CHARGE OF THE GAME, SHOULD PAY ATTENTION TO THE MOST!
INDEED, IT MIGHT DO WELL TO RAISE THAT KID WITH A PROFESSIONAL CAREER IN MIND
HUH!? WELL-WELL-WELL, IS THAT SO!?
Hahahahaha
BUT... IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN YOUR 4TH BATTER TOO...
HE'S MY SON AFTER ALL...!

FURUYA IS NOT THE ONLY PLAYER.
YOU'VE GOT THAT RIGHT!
...HAHA
.....
WELL THEN.
THIS PERSON IS THE SAME, TOO...
No, no~~
YOUR COACH... IS A TEACHER~~
ALTHOUGH HE'S NO FUN
AS FOR ME, I'M JUST A HIRED COACH.
IF I DON'T PRODUCE RESULTS, MY HEAD WILL ROLL.
WILL IT BE SUMMER OR SPRING, OR WILL IT BE... FALL?

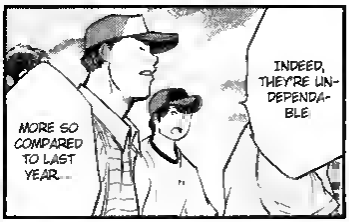
WHEN WE FIGHT AGAIN IN AN OFFICIAL GAME, LET'S PLAY OUR HEARTS OUT!
Yeah! It's over
Is it over?
THE ACE AND THE 4TH BATTER FIRMLY AT THE CENTRE OF THE TEAM..
YES, SIR!!
LET'S GO!

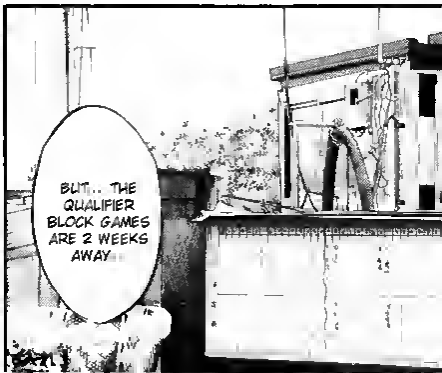

I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT THIS SPIRITED TEAM
I want to hit more!
IN AN OFFICIAL GAME—..!

haaaa
IN THE END, EVEN KAWAKAMI CAN'T STOP YAKUSHI'S CLEANUP
HE SEEMED UNNECESSARY BECAUSE FURUYA WAS GOOD
SOMEHOW SAWAMURA DIDN'T EVEN GET 1 OUT

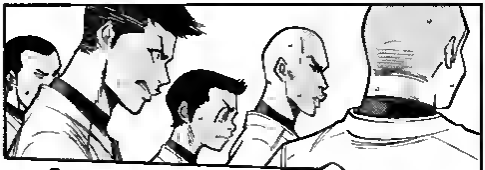

THAT SAID, THE BATTERS
WERE COMPLETELY SHUT OUT BY SANADA AT THE END
一二三四五六七八九十計
1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 2
0 0 0 0 0 0 4 3 X 7

THE CHAMPIONSHIP BEGINS 1 MONTH AFTER THAT.
CAN THEY RECOVER SO SOON?


INDEED, THEY'RE UNDEPENDABLE
MORE SO COMPARED TO LAST YEAR...

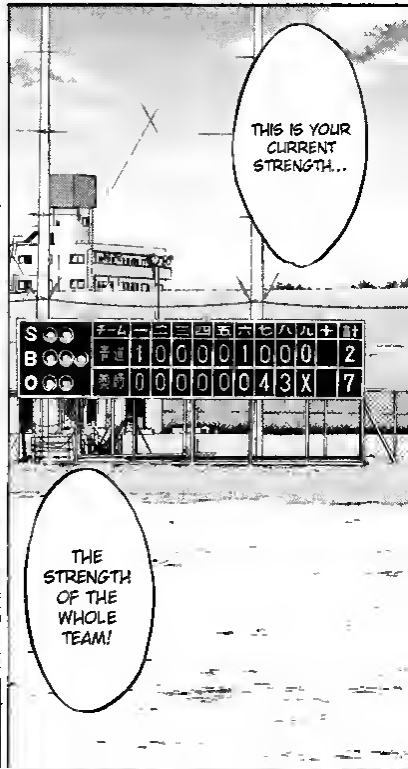

BUT... THE QUALIFIER BLOCK GAMES ARE 2 WEEKS AWAY

AN UTTER DEFEAT.
TOKYO



AS EXPECTED, WE SHOULD NOT HAVE ACCEPTED THIS GAME
AHHH~~ THIS ATMOSPHERE..

BATTERS! ESPECIALLY THE 2ND YEARS!!
YOUR DRIVE AT THE PLATE IS INSUFFICIENT!


THIS IS YOUR CURRENT STRENGTH...
S
B
O
チーム 一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八 九 十 計
青道 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 2
緑野 0 0 0 0 0 0 4 3 X 7
THE STRENGTH OF THE WHOLE TEAM!

YOU MIGHT HAVE A STRONG NOTION OF THE OVERALL BATTING STRATEGY—
BUT THERE'S NO MEANING TO IT IF YOU CAN'T BAT THE WAY YOU NORMALLY WOULD!!
TN: OVERALL BATTING STRATEGY MEANS BATTING FOR THE SAKE OF THE TEAM. EG: WHEN THERE IS A RUNNER AT 3RD EVEN THOUGH THERE'S A 50% CHANCE YOU CAN HIT A FULL HOMERUN YOU BUNT INSTEAD FOR HIM TO SCORE EVEN THOUGH YOU MIGHT BE OUT
...
...I CAN'T CONTINUE TRUSTING YOUR CURRENT BATTING.
IN THIS SUMMER BREAK, I ALLOWED YOU TO BAT FREELY.
ALL BECAUSE I HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS— THAT IF YOU CAN SHOW YOUR STRENGTH FROM PRACTICE GAMES, YOU'LL GET GOOD RESULTS!!

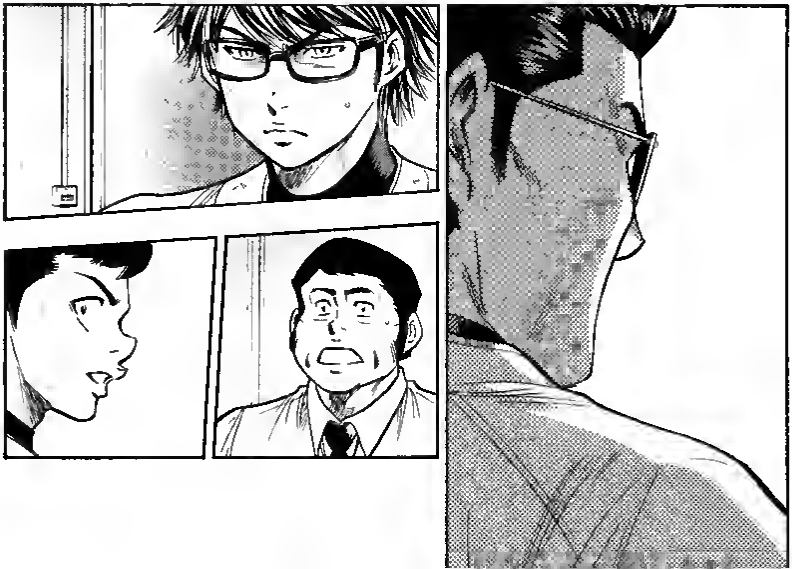
THE BATTING LINEUP AND REGULARS ARE NOT FIXED!
I WILL USE THE EXCELLENT PLAYERS, BE THEY 1ST YEARS OR 2ND. THAT'S MY INTENTION—

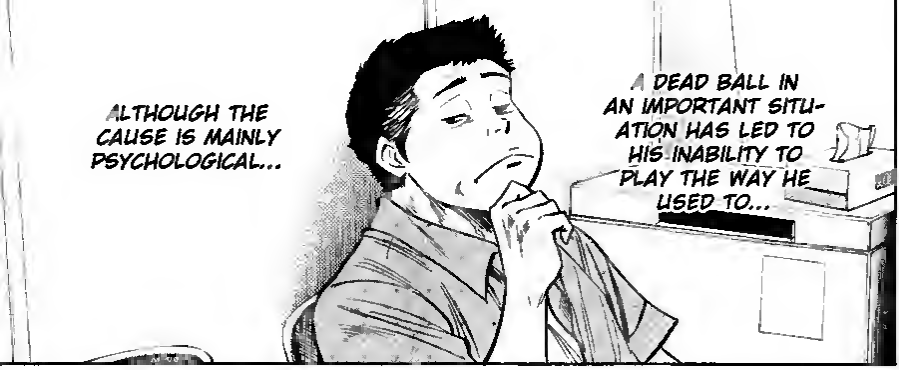
KAWAKAMI
SAWAMURA
YES SIR!!
COOL DOWN. YOU'RE DISMISSED FOR THE DAY!
YOU TWO STAY.

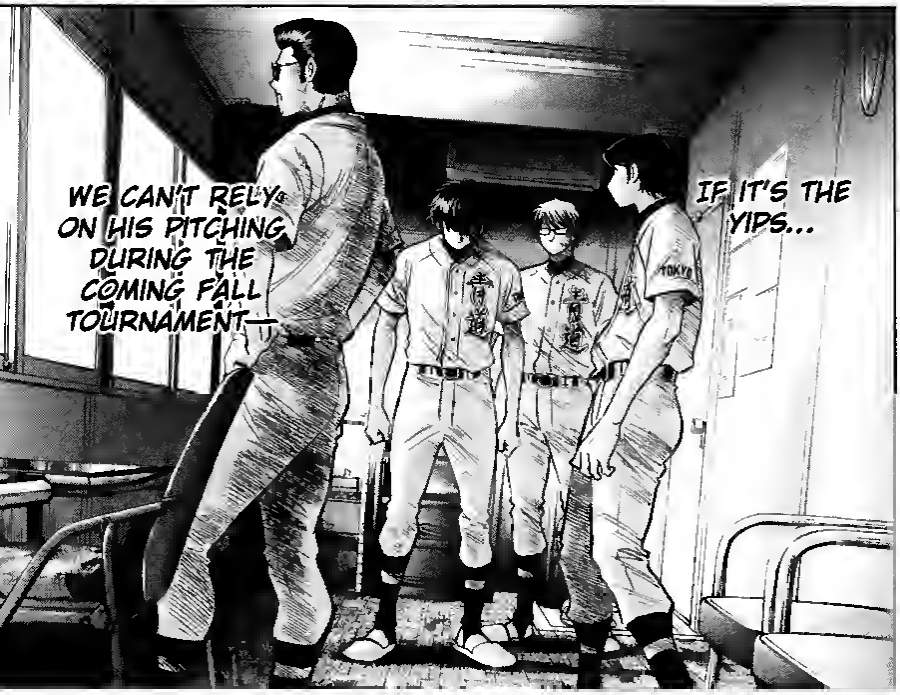
WHAT DID YOU THINK OF YOUR PITCHING TODAY... SAWAMURA?
...AWFUL
DO YOU REALIZE IT?
I COULDN'T PITCH TO THE SPOTS
ARE YOU AWARE THAT YOU ARE UNABLE TO PITCH TO THE INSIDE CORNER?
CALLED BY MIYUKI-SENPAI AT ALL ..

...YES...
.....
THE DEAD BALL THAT SENT YOU OFF THE MOUND DURING THE FINALS GAME...
YOU'VE PROBABLY UNCONSCIOUSLY BECOME AFRAID TO PITCH TO THE INSIDE CORNER
TOKYO
TOKYO

YIPS — MAINLY DUE TO PSYCHOLOGICAL REASONS, A KIND OF SPORTS DEFECT RESULTING IN INABILITY TO PLAY AS YOU INTEND.




ALTHOUGH THE CAUSE IS MAINLY PSYCHOLOGICAL...
A DEAD BALL IN AN IMPORTANT SITUATION HAS LED TO HIS INABILITY TO PLAY THE WAY HE USED TO...

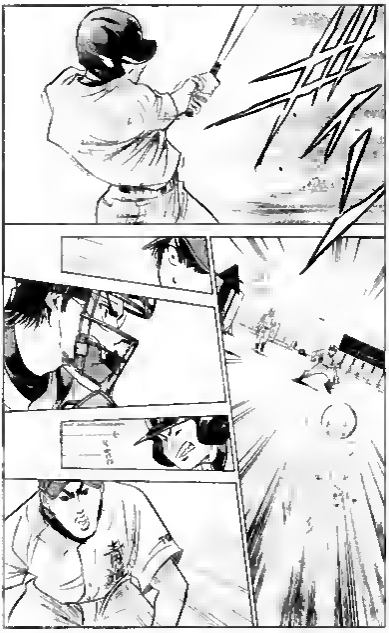

WE CAN'T RELY ON HIS PITCHING DURING THE COMING FALL TOURNAMENT—
IF IT'S THE YIPS...

SAWAMURA..

FOCUS ON LOWER BODY TRAINING, MAINLY RUNNING!
YOU WILL BE FOLLOWING A DIFFERENT TRAINING MENU STARTING TOMORROW!
DON'T COME INTO CONTACT WITH THE BALL AT ALL!
EVEN THOUGH THE TOURNAMENT IS SO CLOSE, ONLY MY TRAINING IS DIFFERENT...?
...HUH!?
KAWA-KAMI!
SO-THIS MEANS...
EVEN THOUGH YOUR PITCHES WERE HIT, YOUR PITCHES CONCENTRATED LOW IN THE STRIKE ZONE WEREN'T BAD.

YES, SIR!!
COORDINATE IT PROPERLY BEFORE THE CHAMPIONSHIP!
TO BE EXCLUDED...
...FROM THE TEAM...
WELL, THAT IS EXPECTED... IF I PITCH SO BADLY...
SINCE THAT'S HOW IT IS, DEFENSE IS IMPORTANT.
THERE WERE MANY GAMES WHEN WE BARELY HELD OUT AGAINST OUR OPPONENTS WITH A SMALL DIFFERENCE IN SCORE
AT THIS MOMENT, THE SCORING ABILITY OF THE TEAM IS CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN BEFORE.

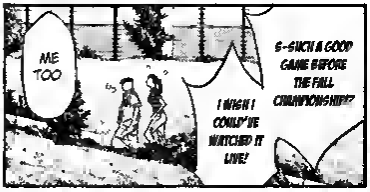
NO MATTER HOW GOOD FURUYA'S CONDITION IS, WE STILL CAN'T DEPEND ON HIM FOR AN ENTIRE GAME. HE LACKS STAMINA—
TO WIN AND ADVANCE IN THE FALL TOURNAMENT, WE NEED THE STRENGTH OF YOU BOTH.



DREAMED... ERROR (LAUGH)

EVERY SINGLE WEEK, EVEN THOUGH I AM RACING AGAINST TIME, NO MATTER WHAT I DO, I OFTEN PRODUCED DRAWINGS THAT I DISLIKE AND REJECT... (ALTHOUGH IT WAS MOSTLY DURING THE DRAFT. OTHERWISE, EVEN THOUGH IT IS PUBLISHED IN THE MAGAZINE, I EDIT IT IN THE COMIC.) THIS MIGHT BE THE FIRST TIME I REJECT SO MANY BEFORE PUBLICATION!! (IN PLACE OF PAGE 17 OF CHAPTER 216, I HAD WANTED TO DRAW A SERIES OF DEVASTATING EVENTS... SWEAT) ANYWAY, SINCE IT WAS SUCH A PITY, I'LL PUBLISH IT HERE!! (LAUGH)

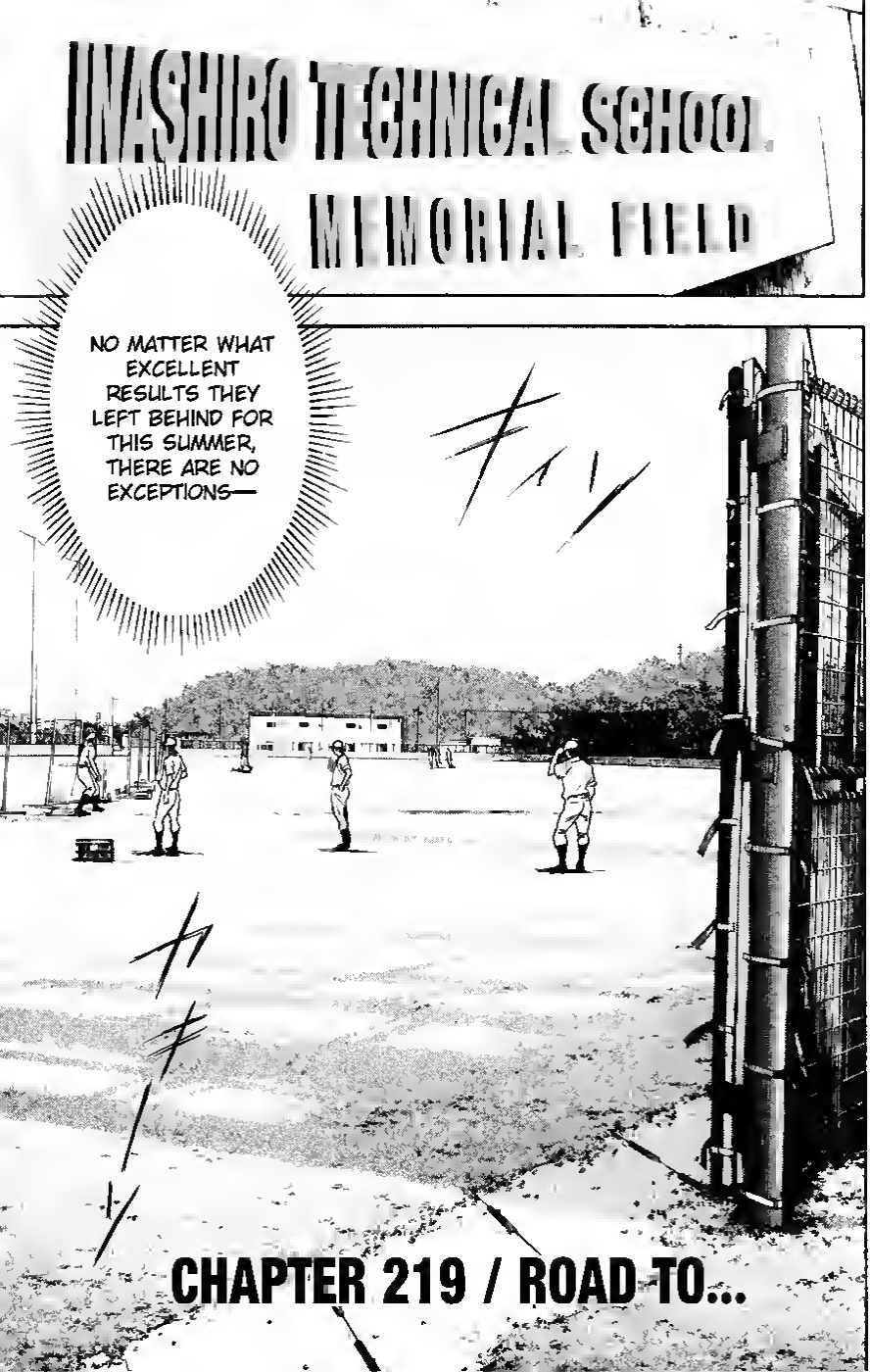
HUH?
A PRACTICE GAME BETWEEN YAKUSHI AND SEIDOU!?

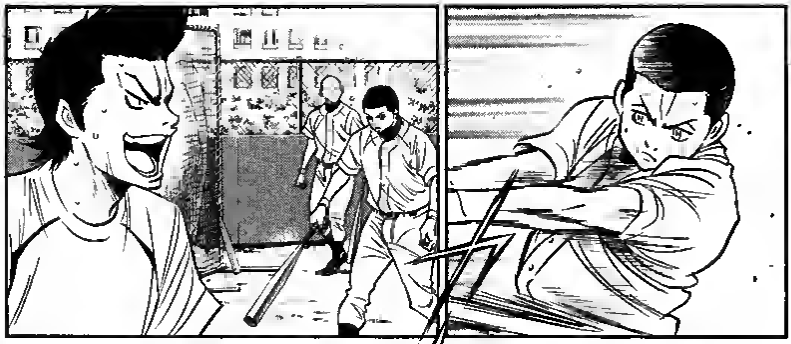

ME TOO
I WISH I COULD'VE WATCHED IT LIVE!
S-SUCH A GOOD GAME BEFORE THE FALL CHAMPIONSHIP?

Climbing this slope is tough
YEAH.
THE SCORE WAS 7-2. SEEMS LIKE YAKUSHI TURNED THE GAME AROUND...

NOT TO MENTION, THE VICTOR WAS..

INDEED, THE CORE STRENGTH OF YAKUSHI STILL REMAINS IN THE TEAM...
THIS SCORE MIGHT BE THE REPRESENTATION OF THE CURRENT CONDITION OF BOTH TEAMS...
AFTER LOSING AN ENTIRE YEAR OF PLAYERS, THE TEAM WILL CHANGE COMPLETELY.
DURING SUMMER BREAK, HOW WILL THE NEW TEAMS BE FORMED IS THE COMMON PROBLEM FACED BY ALL SCHOOLS.
YEAH...
ALSO, THERE IS...
AWESOME TURNOUT!
Wah


INASHIRO TECHNICAL SCHOOL
MEMORIAL FIELD
NO MATTER WHAT EXCELLENT RESULTS THEY LEFT BEHIND FOR THIS SUMMER, THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS—
CHAPTER 219 / ROAD TO...

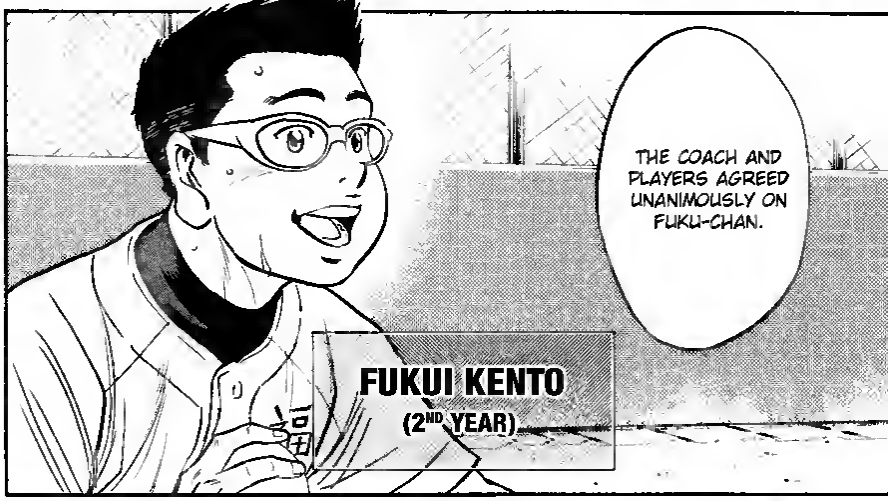


IF THEY ARE PARTICIPATING ACTIVELY IN KOSHIEN, IT WILL DELAY THE RETIREMENT OF THE 3RD YEARS.
BEGINNING LATE SEPTEMBER, THERE'S ALSO THE KOKUTAI.
THERE ARE ALSO PLAYERS CHOSEN FOR THE ALL-STARS SERIES...
EVEN THOUGH THE SUMMER BREAK IS ALMOST OVER, THE 3RD YEARS ARE STILL PRACTICING AS USUAL.

T/N: HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/MAJOR_LEAGUE_BASEBALL_JAPAN_ALL-STAR_SERIES
KOKUTAI IS THE SHORTENED FORM OF NATIONAL SPORTS FESTIVAL
HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/NATIONAL_SPORTS_FESTIVAL_OF_JAPAN
T/N: DIFFERENCE BETWEEN KOKUTAI AND KOSHIEN: KOSHIEN PITS THE BEST FROM EACH PREFECTURE AGAINST EACH OTHER (QUALIFIER, KNOCKOUT) AND ONE WILL EMERGE AS CHAMPION WHILE KOKUTAI PITS 12 COMPLIMENTARY SCHOOLS (USUALLY THOSE FROM KOSHIEN QUARTERFINALS PLUS ONE OR ANOTHER, ETC) ALSO, KOSHIEN IS THE REAL DEAL, KOKUTAI IS, WELL, JUST FOR FUN. MOST SCHOOLS DON'T CARE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER WHETHER THEY ARE SHORTLISTED FOR KOKUTAI. IT'S NOT UNCOMMON THAT THE MAIN PLAYERS FROM KOSHIEN DON'T EVEN PLAY IN THE KOKUTAI OR THEY WON'T EVEN PLAY SERIOUSLY (LIKE TO RECOVERING FROM KOSHIEN OR PREPARING FOR FALL CHAMPIONSHIP). IN OTHER WORDS, KOSHIEN = HELLISH COMPETITION, KOKUTAI = PLAY

THIS IS THEIR CURRENT SITUATION EVEN THOUGH IT'S BEEN 10 DAYS SINCE KOSHIEN...
The person in front is huge...
I can't see.
Cute—
Carlo—
noise
noise
AS EXPECTED FROM THE RUNNER-UP TEAM...
IT'S AMAZING HOW MANY PEOPLE SHOWED UP...
ONLY THE TEAM BASKING UNDER THE ATTENTION OF THE NATION GETS TO EXPERIENCE THIS SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT AND FULFILLMENT.
TSUBASA-KUN!
THEY SPENT ALMOST THEIR ENTIRE SUMMER BREAK AT KOSHIEN.
YOSHI-ZAWA-SAN!
AH... HARADA-KUN.
CAN I HAVE A MOMENT?
ON THE OTHER HAND,
THE START OF THE NEW TEAM WILL BE DELAYED

YEAH...
I KNOW SUCCEEDING HARADA-KUN WILL BE A HUGE PRESSURE, BUT
HAVE YOU DECIDED ON THE CAPTAIN OF THE NEW TEAM?
WELL...
GOOD JOB IN KOSHIEN.
HAVE YOU GUYS SETTLED DOWN?


THE COACH AND PLAYERS AGREED UNANIMOUSLY ON FUKU-CHAN.
FUKUI KENTO
(2ND YEAR)

Bat another box?
BUT HE'S THE MOST RESPONSIBLE PERSON ON THE TEAM, AND GIVING HIS ALL...
HE'S THE KIND TO ALWAYS TAKE FIELD PREPARATIONS TO THE VERY END.
even Narumiya listens to him

WHO!?
FUKU-CHA..

I DON'T THINK HE'LL EVEN MAKE IT AS A REGULAR ON THE NEW TEAM...
HE WASN'T IN THE DUGOUT DURING KOSHIEN..

So hot—
Oi— CARLOS!!
DON'T STRIP ON THE FIELD—
Heh—
AN UNEXPECTED CANDIDATE.
EH!?
strups
strups
strups
mutter
mutter
PEOPLE WHO CAN'T CLEAN UP PROPERLY SHOULD JUST DIE.
YESTERDAY A BALL WAS LEFT ROLLING AROUND TWO THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY
Kya—
Wah—
Carlos—
Tsubasa—
IT MIGHT IN PART BE BECAUSE THERE WEREN'T ANY GUYS AMONG THE REGULARS WHO HAVE THE QUALITIES OF CAPTAIN.
...I SEE.
Shirakawa-kun
gulp
gulp
Ah—
Oi!
DAMN, YOU! DRINK DIRECTLY!
YOU DRANK TOO MUCH!

EH!? IS HE ALREADY PREPARING TO PITCH IN THE FALL CHAMPIONSHIP...!?
NO, NO.
HUH? SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHAT ABOUT NARUMIYA-KUN?
HE'S PROBABLY IN THE BULLPEN
HE'S THE MOST UNCOOPERATIVE...
WE HAVEN'T LET HIM PITCH EVER SINCE WE CAME BACK FROM KOSHIEN.
THE COACH ALSO SAID THAT ONLY THE 3RD YEARS WILL PLAY IN KOKUTAI.
ALSO, HE MUST HAVE ACCUMULATED A LOT OF FATIGUE FROM KOSHIEN
AND BECAUSE HE'LL BE THE ONE PITCHING FOR US FROM NOW ON.
HE'S... THAT KIND OF GUY...

HE MUST BE REALLY PISSED OFF IN THE BULLPEN...
creak
creak
OK! NICE BALL!
BALL! JUST NOW THAT WAS A BALL!
TOO BAD IT WAS TOO LOW!!

MEI-SAN, PLEASE DON'T BE NUISANCE JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT PITCHING!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING A NUISANCE!!
UWA~~ HE IN IT NOW—
Shuu—
THEN WHAT SHOULD A SENPAI BE LIKE!?
THE ONE WHO'S BEEN KEEPING HIM IN LINE ALL THIS TIME MASA-SAN, IS NO LONGER AROUND
HE'S BEING AS SELFISH AS HE LIKES
WHAT? AREN'T SENPAI WHO SAY SELFISH THINGS STILL SENPAI!?
YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
PLEASE DON'T SAY SELFISH THINGS JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A SENPAI.

I'M REALLY FRETTING OVER IT.
IT'S BETTER FOR ME TO CATCH MORE PITCHES FROM MEI-SAN
IT'S FINE. IT'S FINE! I WILL PITCH PERFECTLY TO THE SPOT YOU CALL!
.....
THEN I'M JUST A WALL...
WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE? THAT DISCONTENTED FACE!
YOU DON'T GET IT AT ALL!
I'M NOT EVEN THINKING LIKE THAT!
He's sharp—

DON'T WORRY.
I DON'T THINK YOU CAN REPLACE MASA-SAN RIGHT AWAY—
AH... SOMEHOW, WHEN YOU SAID THAT... INSTEAD...
BUT

I DON'T INTEND TO LOSE!
gulp
ESPECIALLY NOT BEFORE I SEE THE VIEW FROM THE TOP...
grin

I GET IT!!
I WILL EVEN SHAKE OFF YOUR SIGNS
YES!
JUST SO YOU KNOW, I AM SELFISH

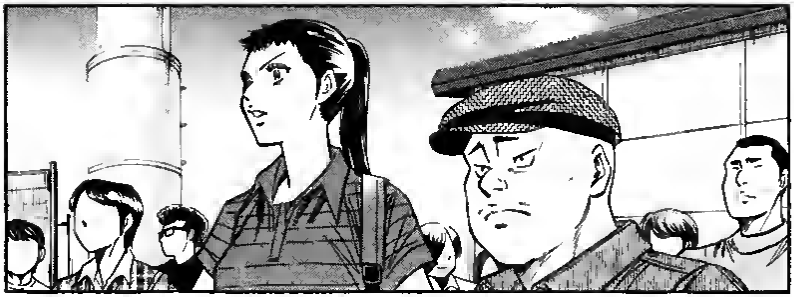
ALSO! ALSO!! JUST BETWEEN US TWO... YESTERDAY

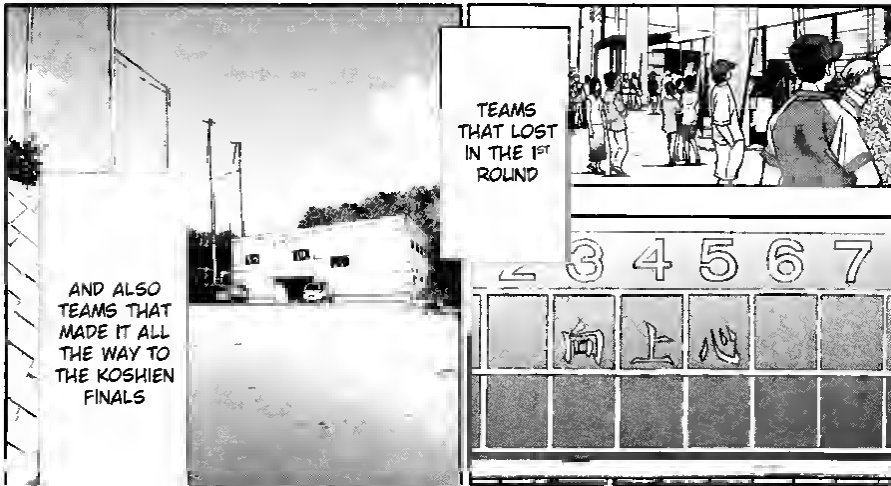
HUH!?
AH.. RIGHT..
I RECEIVED A LOT OF FAN LETTERS!!

A 1ST YEAR FROM THE BRASS BAND CONFESSED TO ME
fufu
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU SAYING!!

IT'S NOT ENOUGH!
ONE MORE! BRING IT!!!
YEAH!
THE QUALIFYING BLOCK FOR THE FALL WILL BEGIN SOON.
THE 3RD YEARS WILL RETIRE AFTER KOKUTAI IN MID-SEPTEMBER.
OK!
THERE'S ALSO THE TOURNAMENT WAITING FOR THEM IN OCTOBER.
YEARGH!
THEY HAVE TO FORM A NEW TEAM IN THE MIDST OF THIS SCHEDULE...
IT MUST BE TOUGH EVEN FOR A WINNING TEAM...
BUT THIS IS ALSO AN EXPERIENCE EXCLUSIVE TO THE WINNING TEAM.

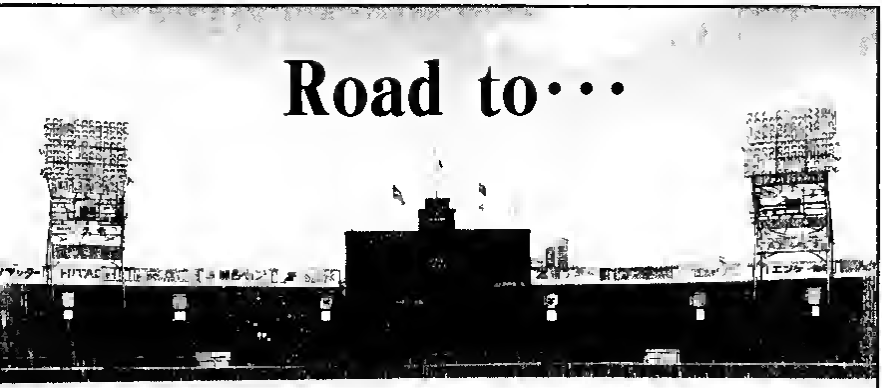
THIS KIND OF THING IS ALSO PART OF "EXPERIENCING KOSHIEN"...




TEAMS THAT LOST IN THE 1ST ROUND
AND ALSO TEAMS THAT MADE IT ALL THE WAY TO THE KOSHIEN FINALS

SPENT THEIR SUMMER IN THEIR OWN WAYS,

AND STAND AT THE STARTING LINE TOGETHER ONCE AGAIN—



LAST DAY~~~~
A HELLISH SUMMER BREAK
IT'S GONE IN A BLINK OF AN EYE
HUH?
DID SAWAMURA SHOW UP TODAY!?

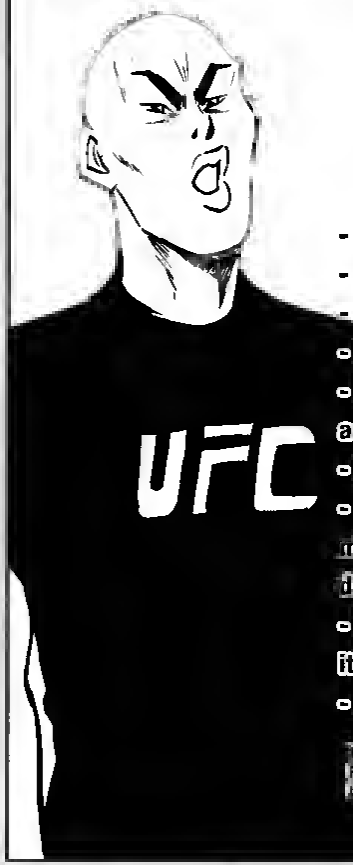
HE'S BEEN RUNNING ON THE B FIELD THIS WHOLE TIME.
WHY? PUNISHMENT FOR YESTERDAY?
IT'S TRUE!
THERE WAS ONE AT MY MIDDLE SCHOOL, TOO A GUY WHO CAN'T PITCH TO 1ST BASE.
NO WAY!?
SAWAMURA HAS THE YIPS?
ISN'T THIS A CHANCE FOR TOUJOU TO GET BACK ON THE PITCHING ROTATION?
ARE YOU AN IDIOT? THAT GUY DIDN'T SWITCH TO A FIELD PLAYER WITH SO LITTLE RESOLVE.
CAN YOU RUN ME THROUGH THE DETAILS ON THAT, KANEMARU?

Ah
CONTINUE IN VOLUME 26

青道選手図鑑

SEIDOU PLAYER PROFILE

Vol.19



HIGASA SHOUJI

(2ND YEAR)

- Born in Saitama
- Position: 3rd baseman
- Throws: Right, Bats: Right
- Bloodtype: A
- Distinctive characteristic: Able to bat as he likes and defense
- Favourite phrase: "Haiyo~"
- Very forgiving towards teammate's mistakes, cheers them on from the dugout
- Likes martial arts, often talks about it with Kuramochi
- Likes reading Gonkaku and Kamipro

TN: Martial Arts magazines. If anybody wants to read it, Reference: http://www.eastpress.co.jp/gonkaku/ and http://kamipro.com/

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川野裕樹

EDITOR
KIICHIRO SUGAWARA
TETSUYA FUJIKAWA

高校に取材に行き、きびきび動く選手達を
見ていると自然に背筋が伸びる。
監督さんから、お話を聞く時も、緊張するし
大きな声であいさつされると、こっちの声も(少し)大きくなる。

帰る時いつも、清々しい気持ちになるんだよな‥‥、
あのピンと張りつめた空気を味わうと。

寺嶋裕二

DEPENDABLE SENPAI, AND ALSO TEAMMATES.
WHAT KIND OF ROLE AM I PLAYING
PITCH WITH THE INTENT OF BRINGING ME DOWN!
NOW, BRING IT!!
I AM
WEAK—
YOUR CONTROL WAS NEVER GOOD TO BEGIN WITH...
BECAUSE YOU'RE AN IDIOT
THERE ARE FRIENDS WHO WILL HELP ME TO MAKE UP FOR WHAT I LACK—.
IN ORDER TO MAKE A MORE RAPID PROGRESS, THE ONLY THING TO DO NOW IS TO FACE YOURSELF... ONLY YOU YOURSELF CAN BREAK THROUGH THIS SLUMP!!
THIS PITCHER IS USELESS— ...
PITCH A FEW FOR ME!
AT THE END OF HARDSHIPS, CAN YOU SEE THE LIGHT—
IN THE END, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS HIS OWN WILL...
ダイヤのA
Ace of Diamond
VOLUME 26 PREVIEW